

## ***BOTULISM, INFANT***

### **I. IDENTIFICATION**

- A. **CLINICAL DESCRIPTION:** An illness of infants, characterized by constipation, poor feeding, and “failure to thrive” that may be followed by progressive weakness, impaired respiration, and death.
- B. **REPORTING CRITERIA:** Clinical diagnosis in an infant with subsequent laboratory confirmation.
- C. **LABORATORY CRITERIA FOR CONFIRMATION:**
- Detection of botulinum toxin in stool or serum, **OR**
  - Isolation of *Clostridium botulinum* from stool.
- D. **CASE DEFINITION:** A clinically compatible that is laboratory confirmed, occurring among children < 1 year of age.

### **II. ACTIONS REQUIRED / PREVENTION MEASURES**

- A. **KENTUCKY DISEASE SURVEILLANCE REQUIRES URGENT NOTIFICATION:** REPORT TO THE LOCAL OR STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT **IMMEDIATELY** upon recognition of a case or suspected case in a time period not greater than 24 hours. If health department personnel cannot be contacted directly, notification shall be made by telephone to the emergency number of the Division of Epidemiology and Health Planning: **1-888-973-7678**.
- B. **EPIDEMIOLOGY REPORTS REQUESTED:**
1. Kentucky Reportable Disease Report Form EPID 200 (Rev. Jan/03)
  2. Outbreak Investigation: Infant Botulism (CDC 52.73).
- C. **PUBLIC HEALTH INTERVENTION:**
- *Clostridium botulinum* spores are ubiquitous. Identified sources such as honey and possibly dark and light corn syrup should not be fed to infants.
  - Source investigation by LHD.

### **III. CONTACTS FOR CONSULTATION**

- A. **KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, COMMUNICABLE DISEASE BRANCH:** 502-564-3261.

- B. KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, FOOD SAFETY AND COSMETICS BRANCH: 502-564-7181.
- C. KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, DIVISION OF LABORATORY SERVICES: 502-564-4446.

#### **IV. RELATED REFERENCES**

1. Chin, James, ed. INFANT BOTULISM. In: Control of Communicable Diseases Manual. 17<sup>th</sup> ed. Washington, DC: American Public Health Association, 2000: 70-75.
2. Pickering LK, ed. Clostridial Infections: Botulism and Infant Botulism. In: 2000 Red Book: Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases. 25<sup>th</sup> ed. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics, 2000: 212-214.